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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PENRYN.

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ANNUAL REPORT



for

THE YEAR 1925

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1925.



TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PENRYN :-

Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1925 is to be a "Survey" Report, in which the measures of progress, and the extent and character of any changes that may have been made in the public health services during the past five years, as well as other matters, should be dealt with. The Circular issued by the Ministry of Health states that this Report should contain, as a minimum, information on matters specified in an appendix to that Circular, and in the order therein given. In a note the Ministry says that the size and scope of the Report may properly vary with the character of the area, and that the elaborate details in a Report upon a large town will not be necessary for a Report upon a small Urban District such as this.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres). . . . .	311.
Population (census 1921). . . . .	3209.
Population (estimated 1925). . . . .	3172.
Number of inhabited houses (1921). . . . .	808.
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921). . . . .	830.
Rateable Value. . . . .	£8889-10-0.
Sum represented by a penny rate (collectible). . . . .	£34.







## PHYSICAL FEATURES, GENERAL CHARACTER AND SOCIAL CONDITION.

Penryn is situated at the head of an estuary of the Falmouth Harbour, and is built, as it were, on the back and sides of a ridge, the crest of which is occupied by the main street which runs due east and west, rising steadily from practically the sea-level to reach its highest point at the extreme end of the town. From this central throughfare, in which the main shops and residences are situated, streets branch off right and left, sloping down to valleys which form the northern and southern boundaries of the Borough. Down each valley a river runs to enter the Penryn Harbour. This harbour is a tidal one, and extends for a distance of about three-quarters of a mile, at which point the Falmouth Harbour begins. At the highest tides there is no flooding of houses. The site on which Penryn is built is an ideal one for effective drainage, for practically all the gradients are very good.

The Borough is a very ancient one, and although it may not possess in some ways the same importance it once had, yet a large trade is carried on with surrounding rural districts. The chief industry is the granite trade. The granite is brought in from quarries in the neighbourhood to be, to a great extent, worked in the yards, some of which are situated in the town, though the largest are just outside the Borough boundary. In these yards a considerable number of stone-masons are employed, and from these large shipments of granite have been, and still are, made to all parts of the World.



In addition to this trade other extensive and flourishing businesses are carried on, such as steam-laundaries, manure works, coal, corn and potato depots &c, giving employment to a considerable number of people, male and female : neighbouring rope-works employ a considerable number of both sexes from Penryn. The market gardens of Penryn are well known and very extensive, employing many, and providing vegetables, fruit &c to a large surrounding area.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
	Legitimate.	37.	28.	66.	
<u>Births.</u>	Illegitimate.	--	1.		<u>Birth-rate 20.8</u>
<u>Deaths.</u>	. . . . .	22.	21.	43.	<u>Death-rate 13-55</u>

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth.

From sepsia. . . . . nil.  
From other causes. . . nil.

Deaths of infants under one year of age.

Legitimate. . . . .  $\frac{M.}{2.}$   $\frac{F.}{2.}$   
Illegitimate. . . . . nil.

Infantile death-rate per thousand births. . . . . 60.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals. There is no hospital of any kind within the district. But for Tuberculosis the Sanatorium at Tehidy is available, whilst for medical and surgical cases the hospitals at Truro and Falmouth are available.





### Ambulance Facilities.

There is no ambulance in the district, but, when required, ambulances can be obtained from Truro, Redruth or Falmouth.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

For Tuberculosis :- one at Tuckingmill, and one at Truro.

For Venereal Diseases :- one at Tuckingmill.

All these are provided by the County Council.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Consultation and Treatment) provided chiefly by local efforts and subscriptions.

### Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health : part time.

Sanitary Inspector and  
Food Inspector :- whole time.

Contributions are made under the Public Health Acts to the salaries of these Officers.

### Summary of Nursing Arrangements.

There is one district nurse, supported by subscriptions and assisted by a grant from the County Council.

The Nursing Association is affiliated with the County Nursing Association, and the work of the nurse is subject to inspection by that Association.

### Midwives.

There are two certificated midwives in the district, whose work is systematically inspected by the County Association.



### Legislation in Force.

There are bye-laws for Slaughter Houses, Nuisances, Hackney carriages, Motor Omnibuses, New Buildings and Streets.

The Public Health Act (1880) was adopted in that year.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water.

The water supply is good and constant. Occasionally in a very dry summer we may be liable to some curtailment, but we are never put to any serious inconvenience. The supply is derived from the Falmouth Waterworks, and practically every house in the town is connected with the mains. The water supplied is regularly analysed, and the Analyst's report is invariably satisfactory. The gathering ground of this Company extends over a large area, which is all contained within the boundaries of the East Kerrier District. Some pollution of the collecting streams unavoidably occurs, as these streams on their way to the main reservoirs flow through highly cultivated and well manured fields, or through grazing lands with their herds of cattle. At all times, and especially after heavy rains, pollution from these sources must occur and cannot be prevented. But this is not pollution by human beings, and is such as can be dealt with by such up-to-date Waterworks as I believe the Falmouth Company's to be. The possibility of pollution of this water by villages and hamlets, farm-houses and cottages, within the collecting area has long been recognised by the East Kerrier Council, and considerable attention has been paid to the prevention of any possible pollution from such sources.





In addition to the above supply, which is almost the sole one for drinking purposes, the Borough possesses a supply of its own, drawn from springs at Tremough and brought through the town. Although none of this is used for drinking purposes, good use of it is made for flushing main drains, street gullies, public urinals and conveniences, and for street watering.

#### Rivers and Streams.

Penryn has, as I have already said, a river forming its Northern boundary, the Praze river, and one forming its Southern boundary, the Budock river.

In addition, on the Northern slope, a stream extends from one end of the town to the other end, which in days gone by was of more service industrially than it now is.

The Praze river is made use of for flushing the main drains in Praze and Commercial Road where the fleet is bad, whilst the Budock river serves the same purpose for the main drain which lies in the bed of the river, and which receives drainage from both Penryn and the East Kerrier district. There is a tendency for people living in the neighbourhood to empty refuse of all sorts into them, in spite of notices and of a well regulated house-to-house collection of the same. In this respect the Budock river suffers most and consequently has to be thoroughly cleaned up at regular intervals, the work being done alternately by the Penryn and East Kerrier Councils.





### Drainage and Sewage.

Owing to the site on which the Borough stands the gradients for practically all the mains are extremely good, with the result that very little trouble occurs in connection with the same. Ventilating shafts are fixed at suitable points throughout. In certain mains, however, where there is but little or no fleet, such as those in Commercial Road and Summercourt, occasional chokages take place, owing to the silting up of road washings, brought in by heavy rains, and it then becomes necessary, in spite of periodical flushings, to open these mains at certain points to clear them.

### Closet Accomodation.

In years not very remote the privy-midden system was very general throughout the Borough, with all the offence and danger associated with the emptying of the pits and the removal of their contents. But now all the closets are pan-closets, most having flushing cisterns, though some are only hand-flushed.

### Scavenging.

The scavenging of the Borough is regularly and, on the whole, efficiently performed. A daily house-to-house collection of refuse is made. With regard to the substitution of movable ash-bins with proper coverings for fixed receptacles, a considerable improvement has taken place in the last few years, but in too many instances household refuse is put into any old pot or pan, and left uncovered until collected by the scavenger's cart.



Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by  
Bye-Laws or Regulations.

There is no offensive trade in the town. No common lodging house. There are two fried-fish shops.

Schools.

These are in a good sanitary condition, with a satisfactory water-supply. None have been closed during the past year.

Milk Supply.

The supply to the Borough is good. There are three Dairies and Cowsheds : all registered and inspected regularly. As will be seen later in this report, there were several milk prosecutions during the year, with heavy fines in six cases. None of those convicted supplied the Borough.

Periodical inspections are made of all places where food is stored, prepared or exposed for sale, including bake-houses, butchers shops, carts &c.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 are adopted and carried out.

There is only one slaughter-house in the Borough, which is registered and inspected weekly.

There are three Bakehouses : inspected quarterly.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

There were ten samples taken, all for milk. Four were genuine : of the remaining six, one had 6.4 p.c of added water, another 8.9 p.c, another 11.1 p.c, another 28.4 p.c; one was 57 p.c deficient in fat, and one 41.6 p.c deficient in fat. Fines of £2, £2-10, £5, £10, £10 & £20 were inflicted respectively in the above cases.





## HOUSING.

The general housing conditions of the Borough are very fair. Of course Penryn is a very ancient town, and its tendency to grow is not great. It is therefore much the same now as it has ever been. I consider the housing conditions compare quite favourably with those of towns of the same size and age. It must be remembered that in rapid growing towns the new growth is practically limited to their outskirts, but the old town still remains in the centre; to modernise this central part without a clean sweep is impossible; so likewise with Penryn. But during the past five years and more Penryn too has been extended by the erection of many houses at the west end of the town and within the borough boundaries, for this Council has erected fifty houses, built on up-to-date lines, with baths, electric lighting &c. These form quite a village of themselves and compare more than favourably with Council houses built elsewhere.

In addition to these this Council is now taking steps to provide twenty-five more such houses.

## Overcrowding.

There are few cases of overcrowding in the town, but such cases must continue until houses of a lower rental than that of those recently built are provided.

I must in this report refer to everything which within recent times has taken place calculated to better the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the Borough.



I therefore wish to call attention to the recent opening to the public of a beautiful recreation ground at the West End of the town, to which the name of Trelawney Park has been given. This Park has been provided entirely out of money left by the late Mr Joel Michell, and left by him for the purpose to which it is now put, namely, the health and pleasure of the inhabitants generally, but more especially of the children, for whom he ever had a penchant. This Park beautifies the approach to the town at that end, and with its tennis court, numerous seats &c is largely patronised and enjoyed.

At the east end of the town another improvement has also been carried out. The public Green, which before was a bare and unattractive piece of ground, has now been turned into a pleasant place, with side walks, seats &c, and is now used by many who never thought before of going there. I think these improvements, which must give much healthy pleasure to many, are a great credit to those who have persistently advocated and pushed them on.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

(1). Number of new houses erected during the year :- nil.

#### (2). Unfit Dwelling Houses.

##### Inspection.

(1). Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). . . . . 300.





(2). Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District ) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925. . . . . 300.

(3). Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous, or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. . . . . 5.

(4). Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. . . . . 30.

(3). REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. . . . . 28.

(4). ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act 1925.

(1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. . . . . 18.

(2). Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-

(a). By owners. . . . . 18.

(b). By Local Authority in default of owners. . . . . nil.

(3). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close. . . . . nil.





B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. . . . . 30.
- (2). Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-
- (a). By owners: . . . . . 28.
- (b). By Local Authority in default of owners. . . . . 2.

C. Proceedings under section 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act 1925.

- (1). Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders. . . . . nil.
- (2). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made. . . . . nil.
- (3). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit. . . . . nil.
- (4). Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. . . . . nil.
- (5). Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. . . . . nil.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Of notifiable infectious diseases since 1920 there have been only five cases, namely, one of Diphtheria, one Scarlet Fever, one Puerperal Fever, one Erysipelas and one Encephalitis Lethargica.



From this it will be seen that the Borough has been for years unusually exempt from such complaints.

Of non-notifiable diseases we have had practically each year a visit from Influenza. This complaint was very rife in 1923, and although no deaths were directly due to it there were several deaths from Pneumonia in that year, the fatal result in some being indirectly traceable to the Influenza epidemic raging at the time.

Other non-notifiable diseases, such as Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, Mumps &c have during the past five years made their appearance every now and then.

The Council supplies Diphtheria Antitoxin, as well as other sera, to persons who are not in a position to pay for the same.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is carried out at the Laboratories for Public Health &c, 6, Harley Street, and at the Council's expense. No use has been made of the Schick test for Diphtheria, or the Dick test for Scarlet Fever.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the  
Year 1925.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Small Pox.	nil.	---	---
Scarlet Fever.	nil.	---	---
Diphtheria.	nil.	---	---
Enteric Fever.	nil.	---	---
Puerperal Fever.	nil.	---	---
Encephalitis Lethargica.	1.	---	---
Erysipelas.	1.	---	1.





OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

<u>Notified.</u>	<u>Treated at Home.</u>	<u>Vision Unimpaired.</u>
nil.	----	----

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

New Cases.				Deaths.				
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
20.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	1.	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-
35.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45.	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-
55.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65. and upwards.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	1.	-	-	-	1.	2.	-	-

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES BLAKEY.

June 7th: 1926.

